

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 248144

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ORIGIN NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66617

DRAFTED BY:NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON

APPROVED BY: NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON

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R 202125Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 14419 ACTION SERSTATE INFO ALGIERS,
ANNAN, BAGHDAD, CASABLANCA, JIDDA, KUWAIT, RABAT, TRIPOLI,
TUNIS, DEC. 19

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 14419

DEPT ALSO PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ETRN, ETRD, XF

SUBJECT: REPORTED US LONGSHOREMEN'S BOYCOTT OF SHIPPING TO ARAB
PORTS

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS DETAILS OF REPORTED BOYCOTT BY AMERICAN LONG-
SHOREMEN OF ALL SHIPPING DEPARTING FOR ARAB PORTS. ACCORDING TO
BEIRUT PRESS, TEDDY GLEASON, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE-
MEN(S ASSOCIATION (ILA), ANNOUNCED ILA MEMBERS WOULD REFUSE TO
LOAD ANY SHIP SAILING FOR ARAB WORLD UNTIL ARABS LIFT EMBARGO ON
OIL TO US.

2. NEWS REPORT COMES AT INOPPORTUNE TIME. THREAT OF ARAB LABOR
BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN SHIPPING, AIRLINES AND OTHER INTERESTS, WHICH
LOOMED LARGE ONE MONTH AGO, HAS VIRTUALLY ENDED LOCALLY (BEIRUT
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PAGE 02 STATE 248144

12990) AND APPEARS TO HAVE RECEDED ELSEWHERE IN *RAB WORLD. WIDE-

SPREAD AND EFFECTIVE EMBARGO ACTION BY ILA, HOWEVER, WOULD MOST PROBABLY TRIGGER ARAB LABOR RESPONSE. IN VIEW OF ONE FRIENDLY LEBANESE LABOR LEADER, ILA BOYCOTT WOULD FURNISH COMMUNISTS, SYRIANS AND OTHER ANTI-US FORCES IN ARAB LABOR CIRCLES STRONG ARGUMENT WITH WHICH TO REVIVE CONSIDERATION OF ARAB LABOR BOYCOTT OF US INTERESTS. MOREOVER, WITH RESUMPTION OF WEEKLY PANAM FLIGHTS TO DAMASCUS, OF FREQUENT US SHIP CALLS TO BEIRUT, AND OF OTHER NEAR NORMAL ACTIVITIES BY US COMPANIES, MORE TARGETS ARE EMERGING FOR ARAB LABOR RETALIATORY ACTION.

3. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS ANY INFO IT CAN USE TO MOST EFFECTIVELY EXPLAIN AND PUT LONGSHOREMEN ACTIVITIES IN PERSPECTIVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONCERNED FRIENDLY TRADE UNION AND GOVERNMENT CONTACTS.
DECON 12/19/74.

BUFFUM

UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE248144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731212/aaaaaitt.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <07-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED US LONGSHOREMEN'S BOYCOTT OF SHIPPING TO ARAB PORTS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ETRN, ETRD, XF
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005